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SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
REP. PHILIP A. CURTIS
REP. EMILY ANN CAIN
REP. ANDRE E. CUSHING III
REP. TERRY HAYES

125TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY
June 16, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Legislative Council Chair, Senate President Raye called the June 16, 2011 special meeting of the Legislative Council to order at 1:20 P.M. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Raye, Senator Courtney, Senator Plowman, Senator Hobbins, Senator Alfond
Representatives:	Speaker Nutting, Representative Curtis, Representative Cushing, Representative Cain, Representative Hayes
Legislative Officers:	David E. Boulter, Executive Director of the Legislative Council Heather Priest, Clerk of the House Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Suzanne Gresser, Revisor of Statutes Scott Clark, Director, Legislative Information Technology John Barden, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library Beth Ashcroft, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Rose Breton, Legislative Finance Director Debra Olken, Human Resources Director

Senate President Raye convened the meeting at 1:20 P.M. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF JUNE 3, 2011 MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary of June 3, 2011 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Courtney. Second by Representative Cain. **Motion passed. (9-0-0-1, with Representative Hayes abstaining).**

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 1: Legislative Council Actions Taken by Ballot

The following actions were taken by ballot by the Legislative Council since the last meeting.

A. LR 2212 **An Act to Provide Further Improvements to Maine's Health Insurance Law**

Submitted by: Representative Wesley Richardson
 Approved: June 15, 2011 Vote: 9 - 1 in favor

B. LR 2213 **An Act to Ensure Local Control with Respect to Gaming Facilities**

Submitted by: Senator Kevin Raye
 Approved: June 16, 2011 Vote: 9 - 1 in favor

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Review of Legislative Studies

Nine (9) legislative study requests and four (4) requests by joint standing committees to meet during the interim were considered and decided by the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council action on the requests is attached.

Item #2: VoIP Telecommunications System - Recommendation

Scott Clark, Director of the Office of Information Technology, presented to the Legislative Council his recommendation to proceed with review of two vendor proposals for a VoIP telecommunications system for final consideration. His evaluation of both proposals indicates they are technically sound, satisfy the feature requirements, have positive references and will cost less than our current telephone service. The estimated cost is \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month less than the Legislature currently pays while providing significantly improved telephone features. Based on the evaluation of the two vendors, Mr. Clark recommended the Legislative Council authorize the Information Technology Office to move forward with the procurement of a VoIP phone system to replace the 25+ year old existing system. The next steps include a discussion between the vendors and a management team to determine the final details of the system. The Information Technology Director and the Executive Director will then negotiate a contract with the lead vendor and present it to the Legislative Council for approval at a future meeting.

MOTION: That the Legislative Council approve the installation of a VoIP telephone system for the Legislature, subject to Legislative Council approval of a qualified vendor and contract for services. The Director of the Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall review proposals submitted by qualified vendors and recommend a VoIP system proposal for acceptance, with or without conditions, by the Legislative Council. Motion by Senator Courtney. Second by Representative Hayes. **Motion passed. (7-0-2-1,** with Senators Hobbins and Alfond absent, and Representative Cushing abstaining).

Item #3: Consideration of After Deadline Requests

The Legislative Council took no action on the After Deadline Requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

The Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M. on a motion by Representative Cushing, seconded by Representative Cain. **Motion passed unanimous (8-0**, with Senators Hobbins and Alford absent).

**125th LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE STUDY REQUESTS
June 16, 2011**

		Action
POLICY AREA:	Appropriations & Financial Affairs	
LD 1043	Streamline and Prioritize Core Government Services Task Force	No Action (included in budget)
LD 1043	Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Working Group	No Action (included in budget)
LD 1187	Downtown Revitalization Fund Board	No Action (bill carry over requested)
POLICY AREA:	Education & Cultural Affairs	
LD 656	Task Force on Franco-Americans	APPROVED
POLICY AREA:	Health and Human Services	
HP 597	Joint Select Committee on Health Care Costs	FAILED
LD 1558	Commission to Study Allocations of the Fund for a Healthy Maine	APPROVED
POLICY AREA:	Insurance & Financial Services	
LD 1338	Department of Professional & Financial Regulation's Evaluation of Ways to Streamline the State's Foreclosure Prevention Outreach and Housing Counseling Program	APPROVED
POLICY AREA:	Judiciary	
LD 951	Commission to Study Priorities and Timing of Judicial Proceeding in State Courts	APPROVED
LD 1477	Committee to Review Issues Dealing with Regulatory Takings	APPROVED
POLICY AREA:	Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development	
LD 841	Blue Ribbon Commission on Affordable Housing	APPROVED

Joint Standing Committee LD 1534	Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee meeting to review progress of the Commission on Reform of the Governance of Land Use Planning in the Unorganized Territory (1 meeting)	APPROVED
Joint Standing Committee LD 1582	Insurance & Financial Services Committee meetings to consult with the Advisory Committee on Maine's Health Insurance Exchange (3 meetings)	APPROVED
Joint Standing Committee Request by Memo	Taxation Committee meetings to identify areas of Maine's tax law that need review and restructuring and work on 9 carry over bills (4 meetings)	APPROVED
Joint Standing Committee LD 848	Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee meeting to review report of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices Study Modifying the Maine Clean Election Act (2 meetings)	APPROVED